

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 were pending in the present application. By this Amendment, claims 1-3, 7-9, and 17 have been cancelled; thus, upon entry of this Amendment, claims 4-6 and 10-16 will be pending in the present application. Claims 10-16 have been allowed.

In the Office Action, it is noted that claims 4-6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By this Amendment, claims 4-6 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim (there are no intervening claims). Therefore, claims 4-6 are considered to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to claims 4-6 is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

This Amendment increases the number of independent claims by two from two to four, but does not increase the total number of claims and does not present any multiple dependency claims. Accordingly, a Response Transmittal and Fee Authorization form authorizing the amount of \$84.00 to be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260 is enclosed herewith in duplicate. However, if the Response Transmittal and Fee Authorization form is missing, insufficient, or otherwise inadequate, or if a fee, other than the issue fee, is required during the pendency of this application, please charge such fee to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this document is to be

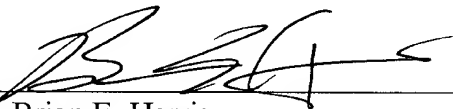
Application No.: 09/782,706
Amendment dated September 9, 2003
Reply to Office Action of June 20, 2003

construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed.

Any fee required for such Petition for Extension of Time, and any other fee required by this document, other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith, should be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____



Brian E. Harris
Registration No. 48,383
Agent for Applicant

BEH/rb:bar
SIDLEY AUSTIN BROWN & WOOD LLP
717 N. Harwood, Suite 3400
Dallas, Texas 75201
Direct: (214) 981-3461
Main: (214) 981-3300
Facsimile: (214) 981-3400
September 9, 2003

DA1 270909v3